

FARM AND HOME.

Cutting and Curing Hay.

"H. L. Read, of *Heart and Home*, gave his ideas on this timely topic as follows: The natural food of the three principal classes of domesticated animals—horses, cattle, and sheep—is grass, not hay or grain. When, therefore, civilization removes them from a state of nature, the artificial life to which they are introduced should be as near the natural one as possible. Six months in the year our horses, cattle, and sheep (in the country) live on their natural food. In providing for the other six, we should prepare for them something as nearly like their summer diet as possible. It should not, therefore, be matured stalks dried but preserved grass. All grasses reach their highest point of excellence, considered as food, when they first come into blossom. The vital elements are then scattered throughout the entire plant, which in no part has suffered the exhaustion and loss attending the complete or even partial development of the seed. Grass, then, should be cut when the blossoms first open. Practically, if the grass on any given farm is mainly of one variety, it is better to begin cutting before it reaches even this state of maturity. Timothy and red-top head about the same time. If we wait for the appearance of the blossoms before we begin, we shall have the matured seed and the weedy and almost worthless stalk before the end is reached. In the matter of clover, if it stands erect, it is safe to wait till one half the blossoms begin to turn, never later. The other half will be so perfected in growth that there will be no loss in quantity or quality. If lodged it should be cut much earlier, as the decay at the root will more than counterbalance any growth elsewhere. In regard to grasses not specified, the same general rule will apply, bearing in mind that it is always better to cut considerable before it reaches perfect maturity rather than considerable afterward. Next and most important, how shall this grass be cured so that it can be packed in bulk and be kept without injury until such time as it is needed for food, and yet retain most of its nutritive properties? The best way, as it seems to me, is this: If there is reasonable promise of a fair day, the mowing-machine should be started at 5 o'clock the night before, and again, as soon as the dew is off in the morning. By 11, all the grass that can be handled will be cut. Then, transfer at once the horses from the machine to the tedder, and go over the field once before dinner. At 1 o'clock, start the tedder a second time. At 2, attach one of the span to the horse-rake, and by 4 o'clock the hay cut in the morning should have been pitched (not rolled) into tall, well-trimmed cocks, containing from eighty to one hundred pounds each. Let these stand until the first fair day following, and then open and turn as is needed, until ready for the barn, which, under ordinary circumstances, will not require more than an hour from the moment it is evenly shaken out to the time that the transfer should be made to the load and from thence to the mow. It will thus be cured evenly, every portion getting nearly the same amount of sun. The juices will not be baked out of it, but dried in it and most of the natural flavor, sweetness, instead of being exhaled, will remain to make the mass palatable as well as nutritious. Generally speaking, I think that farmers err on the side of over rather than under drying. Grass cut when perfectly free from dew, and getting a thorough and even wilt the first day, and then cooking over-night, if the weather is all the time favorable, does not need much sun the second time it is exposed; in fact, if the air is hot and dry, the less (usually) the better. The suggestions made with regard to the mode of drying apply to these meadows when the yield is a ton and a half or more to the acre. Where the grass is thin and the tedder not needed, I would advise that the hay be raked earlier in the afternoon and put into cocks, to stand over-night, even though the first day's sun might fit it for the mow. Much of the must in hay comes of making the transfer from the field to the barn, when the air is charged with moisture, as in cloudy days and near nightfall. 'Cleaning up,' therefore, each day, has its unfavorable as well as favorable side, and, as it seems to me, is not to be ordinarily commended, especially when the farmer has a supply of cloth hay-caps, which are eminently worthy a place in every hay-field. In conclusion, I urge the observance of the following rules: First, Cut the grass as it is coming into blossom, earlier rather than later. Second, Cut it when it is as free as may be from any moisture except its own juices. Third, Have special care not to over-dry, and be particular to dry evenly. Fourth, Make the transfer of the hay from the field to the barn at or near the middle of the day, and when the air is dry and hot."

The *American Bee Journal* allows a correspondent to say that fugitive swarms of bees can be stopped by blinding them somehow by the use of a looking-glass; all of which seems to us the merest trash. A swarm of bees covering an area of several rods square would hardly be arrested by flashing through them the rays of light that would be produced by such an operation. It has an article on the Egyptian bees, which it considers the primary race—that the Greeks introduced them from Egypt into their country. Subsequently they found their way to Rome, and thence over the world. It quotes the following paragraph from a Rome writer with reference to the desirableness of their introduction considered in pecuniary sense: "The field on which bees are fed is no whit the barer for their bithing. When they have taken in their full repast of flowers or grass, the ox may graze and the sheep may fatten on their excrements." This was written two thousand years ago, and gives indication of an eye to profit which would seem like 1870, rather than a century before Christ.

The Farmer's Favorite.

We saw at Church & Hough's, yesterday, one of Bickford & Hoffman's Continuous Distributor Grain Drills, with grain and seed attachment. It is perfect in its mechanical construction and its performance of work. We examined the machine, and could not see how it could possibly fail in doing what is claimed for it. One of these machines has been purchased by Messrs. Travner & Wood, of Jacksboro'.

Heavy cotton frauds have been discovered at Bombay. Captain Folsa signed bills lading for one thousand bales of cotton that were never shipped, and upon which leading merchants obtained £18,500.

From the records kept at Nuremberg, in Bavaria, we get the following interesting facts: In 1132 the earth cracked by reason of the heat, the wells and streams in Alsace all dried up, and the bed of the river Rhine was dry. In 1152 the heat was so great that sand exposed to the sun's rays was hot enough to cook eggs. In 1160 great numbers of soldiers in the campaign against Bela died from the heat. In 1276 and 1277 crops of hay and oats failed completely. In 1303 and 1304 a man could have crossed, dry shod, over the rivers Seine, Loire, Rhine and Danube. In 1393 and 1394 a multitude of animals perished by the heat, which was so great that the harvests dried up. In 1440 the heat was extraordinary. In 1538, 1539, 1540 and 1541 all the rivers were nearly dried up. In 1556 there was a great drouth, which extended over nearly the whole of Europe. In 1615 and 1616 there was, in Italy, France, and the Netherlands, an overpowering heat. In 1718 it did not rain a single time from April until October! The growing grain was burnt, the rivers dried up, the theatres (but wherefore is not stated) were closed by command of the police. The thermometer showed 36 degrees Reaumur, equivalent to 113 degrees Fahrenheit. In irrigated gardens the fruit trees bloomed twice. In 1623 and 1724 there was great heat. The summer of 1746 was hot and dry, the growing grain being calcined. It did not rain for months. 1748, 1754, 1760, 1767, 1778 and 1788 were years in which the summers were extremely hot. In the famous comet year—1811—the summer was warm and the wine produced that season was very precious. In 1818, theatres had to be closed on account of the heat, the highest temperature being 35 Reaumur, or 112 Fahrenheit. During the three days of the revolution of July, in 1830, the thermometer stood at 36 degrees Centigrade, about 97 Fahrenheit. In 1832, during the uprising of the 5th and 6th of July, the temperature was about the same.

The action of the House cannot be justified as constitutional, and all the great lawyers of the House admit it. Whittemore was entitled to be sworn in; and then the House had a constitutional right to expel him, if it could obtain a two-thirds vote to that end. But the feeling was strong against him; and more particularly the feeling of the country was violent against him, as being a convicted embezzler, huckster, and members feared that a vote to admit him, even for an hour, to a seat, might be misinterpreted.

It appears, then, that Mr. Maynard, in agreeing with "all the great lawyers in the House" as to the unconstitutionality of such action, voted accordingly. As for political honesty, or honesty of any kind, or under any circumstances, we will put him against any man whom the Conservatives are likely to bring out, and he will suffer nothing in the comparison. We believe Mr. Maynard to be as capable and as faithful in representing the interests of East Tennessee in Congress as could be expected from any other one that can be named. And this being so, we are in favor of keeping him there, rather than to risk the chance of not being represented at all, by putting some man of straw in his place.

NATIONAL FINANCES.—There is not a very good prospect that there will be any financial legislation in Congress of any considerable importance before the end of the session on the 15th. The bill to increase the volume of bank note circulation fifty millions and to redistribute twenty-five millions of bank note currency was before the second committee of conference to-day, and no result was obtained. Another effort will be made, but it is very doubtful if more than the proposed redistribution is saved from the bill, and that feature the House has already repudiated. It therefore seems quite impossible to agree upon a bill that will suit the contractionists of the Senate and at the same time suit the expansionists of the House. The funding bill which passed the Senate on March 11, and the substitute for the same which passed the House on July 1, were to-day committed to a conference committee, which is Mr. Bontwell's last hope for a measure which will enable him to fund two hundred and fifty millions of the public debt before the next session of Congress.

A Memphis glider and engraver has partially perfected a discovery which will revolutionize the whole business of picture-making by photographic processes. He transfers a steel plate to the polished surface of a section of a hand-saw, a perfect picture of the object placed before the camera, and when the acids used are washed away, there is an engraved photograph left on the steel, from which impressions may be multiplied in ink as from an engraved plate. The acid does the engraver's work, and light itself draws the lines.

The marriage of Miss Blanche Butler (daughter of Gen. Butler) to Gen. Ames, will take place July 21, at St. Anne's Church, (Episcopal,) Lowell. The festivities will occupy four days, culminating with the ceremony, and will consist of a grand ball, illuminations by the neighbors, &c. The bridesmaids are to be Miss Hildreth, cousin of Blanche, Miss Nesmith, daughter of the late Lieutenant Governor John Nesmith, Miss Fanny Talbot, daughter of C. P. Talbot, and Miss Chandler, daughter of Senator Chandler, of Michigan. —*New York Standard.*

NOTICE.—To any one who can say, "Shoes and socks shocks Susan," with rapidity and faultless pronunciation, four times running, a large reward will be paid.

Hot Summers.

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Horace Maynard—Political Honesty.

As a rule, it is enough to know that the *Press and Herald* does not approve the course of this gentleman in Congress, to feel assured that he is about right. This paper has sought to make some political capital out of his vote against refusing Whittemore to take his seat. Those who best know Horace Maynard know very well that, whatever were his motives for voting as he did, a disposition to wink at bribery and corruption was no part of such motives.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Independent* thus speaks of the case:

"The action of the House cannot be justified as constitutional, and all the great lawyers of the House admit it. Whittemore was entitled to be sworn in; and then the House had a constitutional right to expel him, if it could obtain a two-thirds vote to that end. But the feeling was strong against him; and more particularly the feeling of the country was violent against him, as being a convicted embezzler, huckster, and members feared that a vote to admit him, even for an hour, to a seat, might be misinterpreted."

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